

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1** (currently amended) ~~Process~~ A process for the purification of N-carboxyanhydrides of amino acids, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising contacting the N-carboxyanhydride(s) of amino acids, in solution or in suspension in a nonpolar solvent medium, ~~is/are brought into contact~~ with silica added to the medium or constituting a stationary bed.

**Claim 2** (currently amended) ~~Process according to~~ The process of Claim 1, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein the amount of silica used is ~~chosen within the range~~ from 0.5 to 10% by weight with respect to the weight of N-carboxyanhydrides to be purified.

**Claim 3** (currently amended) ~~Process according to Claim 1 or 2,~~ characterized in that The process of claim 1 wherein contact is achieved by mixing, in the nonpolar solvent medium, the silica with the N-carboxyanhydride(s), in solution or in suspension.

**Claim 4** (currently amended) ~~Process according to any one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that The process of claim 1 wherein the silica used is chosen within the category known as silica gel.

**Claim 5** (currently amended) ~~Process according to any one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized that The process of claim 1 wherein the solvent medium is ~~chosen from an~~ aromatic hydrocarbons hydrocarbon.

**Claim 6** (currently amended) ~~Process according to any one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ The process of claim 1 wherein the purified N-carboxyanhydride(s)  
is/are treated with an aqueous solution of an inorganic or organic acid.

**Claim 7** (currently amended) ~~Process according to Claim 5, characterized in that~~ The  
process of claim 6 wherein the pH of the medium ~~during the treatment~~ is between 1 and  
2.

**Claim 8** (currently amended) ~~Process according to Claim 5 or 6, characterized in that~~  
The process of claim 6 wherein the treatment is carried out at a temperature of between  
0°C and 15°C.

**Claim 9** (currently amended) ~~Process according to any one of Claims 5 to 7,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ The process of claim 6 wherein the acid used is an inorganic acid.

**Claim 10** (currently amended) ~~Process according to the preceding claim, characterized~~  
~~in that~~ The process of claim 9 wherein the inorganic acid is hydrochloric acid.